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WC Legislation Enacted by the 82nd Texas Legislature

ed by the 82nd Texas Legislature that directly impacts the workers' compensation system. Summaries begin with the bill number and the primary House or Senate author and sponsor. Full text of each bill, along with legislative histories, analysis and fiscal impacts is available at the Texas Legislature's website at www.capitol.state.tx.us/.

Legislation was passed to extend the operation of TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) to September 1, 2017 (HB 2605 by L. Taylor; sponsored by Huffman) and to extend the operation the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) to September 1, 2017. Sunset legislation to extend the operation of the Texas Department of Insurance to September 1, 2023 also was passed in House Bill (HB) 1951 by L. Taylor, (sponsored by Hegar). See *TDInsight*, www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/insight/201108.pdf.

Sunset Legislation

HB 2605 by L. Taylor; Sponsored by Huffman (Effective September 1, 2011)

TDI-DWC Sunset

HB 2605 continues the operations and functions of TDI-DWC to September 1, 2017. The bill refines processes regarding designated doctors, benefit dispute resolution, and TDI-DWC's Medical Quality Review Panel. The bill requires that appeals of independent review organization medical dispute decisions for non-network claims, certified network claims under Chapter 1305 of the Insurance Code and claims receiving benefits in accordance with Section 504.053 (b)(2) of the Texas Labor Code are to be heard at TDI-DWC's contested case hearings, while appeals of medical fee dispute decisions for non-network claims are to be heard by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). The bill also clarifies that in appeals of medical fee disputes at SOAH, the non-prevailing party, other than an injured employee, is responsible for paying SOAH's hearing costs. The bill also makes changes to the administrative violations provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act to align the enforcement authority of the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation with the Commissioner of Insurance, including allowing TDI-DWC greater inspection authority for system participants, emergency cease-and-desist authority, and final decision making authority on enforcement actions appealed to SOAH. The bill further adds sections to the Texas Labor Code regarding expedited provision of medical benefits for certain work-related injuries sustained by a first responder employed by a political subdivision with the intent to ensure that an injured first responder's claim for medical benefits is accelerated by a political subdivision, insurance carrier, and TDI-DWC to the full extent authorized by current law. The Act is applicable generally to events occurring on or after the effective date of September 1, 2011, except where specified (provisions concerning medical disputes based on review by an independent review organization or appeal of medical fee disputes based on TDI-DWC review apply on or after June 1, 2012, and designated doctor provisions apply on or after January 1, 2013). Additionally, the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall adopt rules regarding certification of designated doctors as amended by this Act not later than January 1, 2013.

HB 1774 by L. Taylor; Sponsored by Huffman (Effective September 1, 2011)

OIEC Sunset

HB 1774 continues the operations and functions of the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) to September 1, 2017. The bill adds standard Sunset provisions regarding alternative dispute resolution procedures and requires OIEC to develop and implement a policy to encourage the use of appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures under *Continued on page 2*

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Chapter 2009 of the Government Code to assist in the resolution of internal and external disputes under OIEC's jurisdiction. The bill also requires OIEC to coordinate the implementation of the policy, provide training as needed to implement the procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative dispute resolution, and collect data concerning the effectiveness of those procedures. The bill contains provisions regarding OIEC's access to information from TDI-DWC and also adds a provision that when assisting an injured employee, OIEC is entitled to the same access to information related to the employee's injury and workers' compensation claim as the employee or any other party to the claim. The provisions regarding OIEC's access to information apply to a claim for workers' compensation benefits based on a compensable injury regardless of whether the injury occurred before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

Workers' Compensation Legislation

HB 528 by Solomons; Sponsored by Van de Putte (Effective immediately – June 17, 2011)

Pharmaceutical services - workers' compensation informal and voluntary networks

HB 528 amends current law relating to the provision of pharmaceutical services through informal and voluntary networks in the workers' compensation system, and provides an administrative violation. The bill allows workers' compensation insurance carriers to continue to have contractual fee discounts for pharmaceutical services and to use a voluntary or informal network to obtain contractual discounts with health care providers under certain conditions. The bill requires health care providers who participate in pharmacy informal or voluntary networks to receive notice from the insurance carrier, the insurance carrier's authorized agent or the informal or voluntary network of any person that has access to the health care provider's contractual discount and creates an administrative violation for the insurance carrier if notice is not provided. Additionally, the bill requires pharmacy informal and voluntary networks to register with TDI-DWC and sets out the requirements and timeframes for the registration process, and clarifies that prescription medication or services may not be delivered through a certified workers' compensation health care network under Chapter 1305 of the Insurance Code or through direct contracts between political subdivisions and health care providers under Section 504.053(b)(2) of the Texas Labor Code. The

bill states that a contractual agreement between an insurance carrier and a health care provider that provides for fees for pharmaceutical services that are different from the fees authorized under the fee guidelines adopted by the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation that were in effect on any date between and including January 1, 2011, and the effective date of this Act, and that is arranged under a contract with an informal or voluntary network registered with the Division of Workers' Compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance is validated and is prohibited from being the sole basis of an enforcement action under Title 5 of the Texas Labor Code.

HB 625 by Solomons; Sponsored by Carona (Effective September 1, 2011)

Staff leasing services

HB 625 relates to certain requirements and timeframes for staff leasing services companies to provide workers' compensation claim and payment information to its client company. The bill also provides for an administrative violation for failure to comply by the staff leasing services company license holder, but also states that a license holder does not commit an administrative violation if the license holder requested the information required from the license holder's workers' compensation insurance provider and the provider does not provide the information to the license holder within the required time. Further, a license holder shall notify TDI of a health care provider's failure to comply with the "notice of claims information to policyholders" requirements as set forth in Section 2051.151 of the Insurance Code.

HB 2089 by Smithee; Sponsored by Fraser (Effective September 1, 2011)

Resolution of overpayment or underpayment of income benefits

HB 2089 adds a new section to the Texas Labor Code to provide for resolution of overpayment or underpayment of income benefits and requires the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation to establish procedures and timeframes by rule. The procedure for recouping overpayments must take into consideration the cause of the overpayment and minimize the financial hardship to the injured employee. The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall adopt rules to implement the new section not later than January 1, 2012.

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Texas Workers' Update Compensation Update

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The staff that prepares this newsletter has no role in proposing, drafting, editing, or approving TDI rules or policies or interpreting statutes.

Texas Workers' Compensation Update should not be construed to represent the policy, endorsement or opinion of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation or the Texas Department of Insurance.

By necessity, summaries of proposed and adopted rules cannot explain their full complexity. Readers interested in complete information about administrative rules should consult the versions published in the Texas Register.

To the best of the staff's ability, information presented in this newsletter is correct as of the publication date, but scheduled dates and proposed rules and amendments may change as the adoption process goes forward.

Texas Workers' Compensation Update is available online at:

http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/ publications.html under "News and Publications."

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HB 2093 by Thompson; Sponsored by Van de Putte (Effective January 1, 2012)

Consolidated insurance programs

HB 2093 adds new Chapter 151 to the Insurance Code regarding the operation and regulation of certain consolidated insurance programs. The bill defines "consolidated insurance program" as a program under which a principal provides general liability insurance coverage, workers' compensation insurance coverage, or both that are incorporated into an insurance program for a single construction project or multiple construction projects. The bill sets forth general requirements related to such programs - including duration of completed operations general liability insurance coverage and enforceability of indemnity provisions – and requires the Commissioner of Insurance to adopt rules as necessary to implement the requirements. The bill also states that a provision of the new chapter may not be waived by contract or otherwise. The Act applies only to a new or renewed consolidated insurance program for a construction project that begins on or after January 1, 2012.

SB 158 by Williams; Sponsored by Fletcher, et al. (Effective September 1, 2011)

Controlled substances - fraudulent or unlawful acts

SB 158 amends the Health and Safety Code and the Penal Code to set forth offenses and penalties involving the fraudulent or unlawful obtaining, delivering, dispensing, distributing, or diverting of a controlled substance. The bill specifically references persons who convert or divert a controlled substance to which the person has access by virtue of the person's profession or employment and also persons who obtain from a health care practitioner, by fraud or deceit, controlled substances that are not medically necessary for the person. The bill applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SB 321 by Hegar, et al.; Sponsored by Kleinschmidt (Effective September 1, 2011)

Employee's transportation and storage of certain firearms or ammunition

SB 321 amends the Labor Code to state that a public or private employer may not prohibit an employee who holds a license to carry a concealed handgun, or who otherwise lawfully possesses a firearm, or who lawfully possesses ammunition

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from transporting or storing a firearm or ammunition the employee is authorized by law to possess in a locked, privately owned motor vehicle in a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area the employer provides for employees. There are exceptions to this provision relating to schools, certain types of properties involving chemicals and oil and gas, and vehicles owned or leased by a public or private employer and used by an employee in the course and scope of the employee's employment. The bill allows an employer to prohibit firearms on its premises (a building or a portion of a building as defined in the Penal Code). The bill also grants to the employer immunity from civil liability, except in cases of gross negligence, arising out of an occurrence involving a firearm or ammunition that the employer is required by this bill to allow on the employer's property. The bill applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after the effective date of this Act.

SB 800 by Duncan; Sponsored by Elkins (Effective immediately - June 17, 2011)

Workers' compensation data collection agents

SB 800 amends the Texas Labor Code to align the statutory authority for the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation to designate a statistical agent for the collection of data with similar authority currently utilized by the Commissioner of Insurance. The bill sets forth the qualifications and operations of workers' compensation data collection agents and authorizes a data collection agent to collect a fee from a reporting insurance carrier, other than a governmental entity, for the necessary and reasonable costs of collecting data from that reporting insurance carrier.

The bill originated from a legislative recommendation by TDI-DWC.

SB 809 by Seliger; Sponsored by Giddings (Effective September 1, 2011)

Adjudication of certain workers' compensation disputes

SB 809 relates to the adjudication of certain workers' compensation disputes, including judicial review in district court. The bill sets forth the timeframes for filing suit to seek judicial review of medical dispute decisions by TDI-DWC or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), including medical fee disputes, to be not later than the 45th day after the date on which the notification of the decision is mailed to the party. Because the mailing date is considered to be the fifth day after the date the decision was issued by SOAH or filed

with TDI-DWC, a party essentially has 50 days to seek review, which is consistent with the statutory timeframes for judicial review already in place for indemnity disputes. The bill also provides that the dispute resolution process in Chapter 410 of the Texas Labor Code applies to disputes of whether an insurance carrier properly provided an employee certain information regarding workers' compensation networks as required by Chapter 1305 of the Insurance Code. The bill applies only to a suit for judicial review filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SB 1714 by Duncan; Sponsored by Chisum (Effective September 1, 2011)

Actions against employer by employee who is not covered by workers' compensation insurance

SB 1714 addresses a recent federal court decision that permitted an employee to opt out of workers' compensation into an employer's non-workers' compensation occupational benefit plan, which contained a pre-injury liability waiver, so long as the employer has workers' compensation insurance coverage. SB 1714 makes more specific that certain common-law defenses do not apply to an action against an employer by or on behalf of an employee who is not covered by workers' compensation insurance obtained through a licensed insurance company or through self-insurance, rather than an action against an employer who does not have workers' compensation insurance coverage. The bill extends the prohibition of pre-injury liability waivers to all employees who are not covered by workers' compensation insurance and not just employees of employers who do not have workers' compensation insurance coverage. The bill also adds that unless an employee has waived coverage in connection with an agreement with the employer, the employee who elects to retain a right of action for damages for injuries sustained in the course and scope of the employment may bring a cause of action, which will be subject to all defenses available under common law and the statutes of this state. The bill's provisions do not apply to a cause of action by an employee if the employee is subject to a valid and enforceable contract with the employee's employer relating to benefits for occupational injury or death and the employer, since January 1, 2011, has continuously had workers' compensation insurance coverage and offered its employee a program providing benefits for occupational injury or death that is not governed by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act. With this exception, the bill applies only to a cause of action that is filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

TDI-DWC Centralizes Processing of Forms

TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) centralized the processing the designated doctor reports and narratives as of February 1, 2011. Designated doctors should fax all completed designated doctor reports and narrative attachments, including the DWC Form-069, Report of Medical Evaluation, and DWC Form-073, Work Status Report, to TDI-DWC at 512-490-1047.

TDI-DWC rules require that designated doctors complete DWC-Form-073 when evaluating an injured employee's ability to return to work. These completed forms must be submitted to the TDI-DWC as a part of the designated doctor report at the fax number listed above.

The DWC Form-069 and DWC Form-073 are available for download from the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/ form20.html.

For questions regarding the submission of designated doctor reports and narratives to TDI-DWC, call Comp Connection for Health Care Providers at 1-800-372-7713 (804-4000 in the Austin area) and select option 3.

Recent TDI-DWC Form Revisions

TDI's Division of Wokers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) forms and notices are available for download from the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/form20.html.

DWC Form-026, Request for Reimbursement of Payment Made by Health Care Insurer

(For use on or after August 1, 2011)

Health care insurers and/or their authorized representative are required to file this form to request reimbursement from the appropriate workers' compensation insurance carrier. The form was revised to provide clarity to workers' compensation system participants on the processing of these types of reimbursement requests. Health care insurers and/ or their authorized representative must use this form on and after August 1, 2011.

DWC Form-064, Medical Interlocutory Order Request Form: Continued Use of a Drug Previously Prescribed and Dispensed and Excluded from **TDI-DWC's Closed Formulary**

(For use on or after September 1, 2011 for claims with dates of injury prior to September 1, 2011) Revised to conform with the recently adopted pharmacy closed formulary (closed formulary) rules, 28 Texas Administrative Code §§134.500, 134.506, 134.510, 134.520, 134.530, 134.540, 134.550, and 133.306. September 1, 2011 is the applicability date for the closed formulary rules for workers' compensation claims with dates of injury on or after September 1, 2011. As noted in the adopted rules, the pharmacy closed formulary applicability date for claims with dates of injury prior to September 1, 2011 (also referred to as "legacy claims"), occurs on or after September 1, 2013. The TDI-DWC will not process any official requests for such an MIO submitted before September 1, 2011.

DWC Form-069, Report of Medical Evaluation (For use on or after July 1, 2011)

A minor technical revision was made to the DWC Form-069, Report of Medical Evaluation, to add the barcode back to the form. No other changes have been made to the form. Texas workers' compensation system participants are required to use the revised form on and after July 1, 2011. The TDI-DWC will not accept previous versions of the form after August 1, 2011.

Please be reminded that effective March 1, 2011, workers' compensation system participants must fax all completed DWC Form-069, Report of Medical Evaluation, and associated narrative attachments to the TDI-DWC at 512-490-1047. Do not send these reports and narratives to the TDI-DWC Field Offices or other agency fax numbers.

DWC EDI-02 (Insurance Carrier or Trading Partner Medical EDI Profile) and EDI-03 (Medical EDI Compliance Coordinator and Trading Partner Notification)

(For use on or after September 1, 2011)

An insurance carrier or trading partner sending the medical EDI transmission must send to the TDI-DWC a completed DWC EDI-02 at least five working days prior to sending its first test transaction under these adopted rules. An insurance carrier must send to the TDI-DWC a completed DWC EDI-03 at least five working days prior to sending its first transaction. The TDI-DWC notes that trading partners or insurance carriers that already have a valid DWC EDI-01 (EDI Trading Partner Profile) on file with the TDI-DWC do not have to file the new DWC EDI-02 form unless there are changes to their information. All insurance carriers, however, must file an EDI-03 (Medical EDI Compliance Coordinator and Trading Partner Notification) form. The adopted rules Regarding Insurance Carrier Medical Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Reporting are effective September 1, 2011.

Recent Rule Adoptions for TDI-DWC

Following is a summary of recent rule adoptions by TDI-DWC.

28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §134.802 and new \$\\$134.800, 134.801, and 134.803 -134.808 regarding insurance carrier medical electronic data interchange (EDI) reporting. (Adopted 6/20/2011, published in the Texas Register 7/1/2011)

The purpose of the adoption is to implement the requirements of Texas Labor Code §413.007 and §413.008 and improve insurance carriers' understanding of the requirements associated with reporting medical charges and payment data pursuant to these statutes. Texas Labor Code §413.007 requires the TDI-DWC to maintain a statewide data base of medical charges, actual payments, and treatment protocols to be used to adopt medical policies and fee guidelines and administer the medical policies, fee guidelines, or rules. These adopted rules require insurance carriers to submit information to the TDI-DWC to populate the data base. The adopted rules codify the existing TDI-DWC medical EDI reporting requirements with minimal changes to the current technical infrastructure associated with medical EDI reporting.

These rules adopt by reference the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) EDI Implementation Guide for Medical Bill Payment Records, Release 1.0, dated July 4, 2002.

These adopted rules also adopt by reference the Texas EDI Medical Difference Table, Texas EDI Medical Data Element Edit Table, and Texas EDI Medical Data Element Requirement Table. These tables are published by the TDI-DWC and are available along with the adoption on the TDI website.

The adopted rules are effective 9/1/2011.

28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§133.10, 133.500, and 133.501 and adopted new §133.502 regarding medical bill processing. (Adopted 2/3/2011, published in the Texas Register 2/18/2011)

The purpose of the adoption is to add necessary requirements to ensure that workers' compensation medical billing aligns, to the extent possible, with the billing requirements and standards adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as required by Texas Labor Code §413.011. The amendments and additions clarify the data standards, requirements and processes associated with electronic medical bill processing as required

by Texas Labor Code §408.0251. Additionally, these rules clarify the field requirements for paper medical bills submitted by health care providers who are exempt from electronic submission.

The adopted rules are effective 8/1/2011.

28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §136.1 and §136.2 regarding Review of Employer Report of Injury and Registry of Private Providers of **Vocational Rehabilitation Services** (Adopted 1/14/2011, published in the Texas Register 1/28/2011)

The purpose of the adoption is to add Licensed Master Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Social Workers to the list of acceptable credentials to be on TDI-DWC Registry of Private Providers of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Registry). The amendments will provide for a broader selection of vocational rehabilitation providers and greater geographic coverage of services.

The adopted rules are effective 2/3/2011.

28 Texas Administrative Code §137.5 regarding Case Management (Adopted, 12/6/2010, published in the Texas Register 12/17/2010)

The purpose of the adoption is to establish certification standards for case managers used by insurance carriers for non-network workers' compensation claims. The new rule clarifies that case managers are required to be certified, provides credentialing requirements, specifies the limitations of when skilled, non-certified case managers are allowed to provide case management services, requires insurance carriers be responsible for verifying and documenting compliance with the rule, and reiterates that claims adjusters are prohibited from being used as case managers.

The adopted rules are effective 9/1/2011.

28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §126.7 regarding Designated Doctor Examinations: Requests and General Procedures and new §§127.1 - 127.25 regarding Designated Doctor Scheduling and Examinations.

(Adopted 12/6/2010, published in the Texas Register 12/17/2010)

The purpose of the repeal of 28 TAC §126.7 is to ensure clarity and efficiency in designated doctor regulation. The purpose of the adoption of new 28 TAC \\$\127.1 - \hat127.25 is primarily to recodify the provisions of repealed 28 TAC §126.7. The adopted new rules also expand on the recodified Continued on page 7

Recent Rule Adoptions for TDI-DWC continued from page 6

language to comply with the amendments to Texas Labor Code §408.0041 made by House Bill 7, 79th Legislature, Regular Session (effective September 1, 2005). Additionally, the new rules are anticipated to improve the quality and availability of designated doctor examinations by providing that TDI-DWC may require designated doctors to remain appointed to a claim so long as that doctor is still qualified to examine the employee; and the new rules clarify TDI-DWC's existing designated doctor procedures in order to facilitate a more efficient designated doctor scheduling and examination process.

The adopted rules are effective 2/1/2011.

28 Texas Administrative Code §134.500 and \$134.506 and new \$\\$134.510, 134.520, 134.530, 134.540, and 134.550 regarding the Pharmacy Closed Formulary and amended §133.306 regarding Interlocutory Orders for Medical Benefits. (Adopted 12/3/2010, published in the Texas Register 12/17/2010)

The purpose of the adoption is to comply with the requirements of HB 7, 79th Legislature, Regular Session, effective September 1, 2005; which requires the adoption of a pharmacy closed formulary pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.028(b). These rule adoptions are anticipated to bring more uniformity and cost certainty to prescribing medication to injured employees subject to the Texas workers' compensation system, to better coordinate health care pursuant to TDI-DWC's adopted treatment guidelines the Official Disability Guidelines-Treatment in Workers' Comp, and to safe guard delivery of medications to injured employees through the clarification of the process in which TDI-DWC may enter medical interlocutory orders in certain situations pertaining to the delivery of pharmaceuticals.

The adopted rules regarding the Pharmacy Closed Formulary are effective 1/17/2011; the adopted rules regarding Interlocutory Orders for Medical Benefits are effective 9/1/2011.

TDI-DWC Rules Online:

www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/index.htm

WC News in Brief

Designated Doctor Audit Plan Approved

IN MAY 2011, the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation approved a Designated Doctor Review to examine the accuracy of certifications of maximum medical improvement (MMI) and impairment ratings (IRs) using the 4th edition of the American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment. At the conclusion of the review, TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Advisor Donald Patrick, M.D., J.D., recommended to the Commissioner a follow-up audit with certain designated doctors who were previously audited in April 2010 to monitor compliance with the Texas Labor Code and the Texas Administrative Code.

A follow-up audit will be initiated using the same scope, methodology, selection criteria, and program area responsibilities as laid out in the Commissioner approved April 2010 Designated Doctor Review. A copy of the April 2010 Designated Doctor Review audit plan is posted on the TDI website at www.tdi. texas.gov/wc/hcprovider/medadvisor.html.

For more information, contact Mary Landrum of TDI-DWC Health Care Quality Review at 512-804-4814 or Mary.Landrum@tdi.state.tx.us.

System Data Report Available Online

TDI-DWC is offering a new interactive online report containing workers' compensation system data. The TDI-DWC System Data Report and associated online tools allow users to create customized graphics from the data and download the results into a PDF file for future use. The report contains workers' compensation claims data regarding income and death benefits, dispute resolution, medical fee disputes, designated doctor appointments and medical benefits.

"We are pleased to provide information in an interactive format that allows system participants to more easily access aggregate claims information," said Rod Bordelon, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation. Continued on page 8

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The new, improved report is similar in content to the System Data Report last published in June 2005, and contains information from calendar year January 2006 to December 2010; updated through June 2010. The new online report will eliminate the need for workers' compensation system participants to submit open records requests for this information, although that service is still available for other data requests.

The report is available for free on the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/data.html and is provided in HTML and PDF formats. TDI-DWC will update the report twice each year.

For more information about the TDI-DWC System Data Report, contact Tammy Campion at 512-804-4717 or Tammy.Campion@tdi.state.tx.us.

Department of Labor Recognizes TDI Data Collection

The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recognized TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) for outstanding performance during the 2009 OSHA Log Data Collection. This is the third year the agency has received this recognition since 2008.

This year, Texas was the first large state to receive perfect scores of 10 for overall performance and 5 for data quality. The ratings were based on meeting the target deadlines and milestones and pursuing the highest standards of data quality throughout the collection.

The TDI-DWC's Federal Data Collection section collects, analyzes and distributes occupational injury, illness and fatality information for the State of Texas. Data collection programs include the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injured and Illnesses, the BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and the annual Occupational Safety and Health Data Initiative. The section also analyzes workers' compensation claims data to determine causes of injury and illness.

To view the occupational injury, illness and fatality information for the state of Texas visit the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis /index.html.

TDI-DWC Closes Missouri City Field Office Permanently

The Missouri City Field Office of the TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) closed permanently on July 5, 2011. Injured employees and other workers' compensation system participants in the counties of Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Wharton and certain parts of Harris County now receive customer service from the TDI-DWC Houston East and Houston West field offices.

All correspondence and faxes relating to claims, including official actions, letters of clarification and forms, should be mailed to the TDI-DWC Houston East Field Office, 5425 Polk Street, Suite 130, Houston, Texas 77023-1454 or faxed to 713-514-0713.

The TDI-DWC Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) services for employers in the Missouri City area will be coordinated out of the TDI-DWC Houston West field office. Employers can call 281-260-3035 for workplace safety assistance.

Workers' Compensation Data Assists Federal and State Agencies in Child Support **Enforcement**

On February 9, 2011, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation Rod Bordelon signed a data sharing agreement with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) to assist in the identification of individuals delinquent in their child support obligations.

The OCSE reports that TDI-DWC has become the fifteenth state workers' compensation agency in the nation to participate in OCSE's insurance match program. While the OCSE receives information from commercial insurance companies, this information does not always include payments by selfinsured political subdivisions and other insurance carriers. To date, the 24 states who have developed the capability to identify insurance payments have reported that these data sharing agreements and other programs have resulted in over \$5 million in collections for children and families nationwide.

Texas Labor Code Section 402.085 requires TDI-DWC to release information on a claim to certain entities responsible for enforcing a child support obligation or locating an absent parent. In addition, Texas Labor Code Section 408.203 provides that workers' compensation indemnity benefits are subject to a lien for court-ordered child support.

TDI-DWC will provide the information necessary to allow OCSE to identify individuals receiving workers' compensation indemnity payments and continued on page 9

Companies Approved to Self-Insure for Workers' Compensation

Under Texas law, certain large, private companies can self-insure for workers' compensation claims, while retaining the protection of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act for the company and for its employees. To qualify, a company must have a minimum workers' compensation insurance unmodified manual premium of \$500,000 and meet other requirements subject to annual review.

From December 2010 through June 2011, a total of 34 companies with approximately 102,200 employees in Texas were approved to self-insure for workers' compensation claims for a one-year period under TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation's Self-Insurance program.

The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation approved renewals for Certificates of Authority to Self-Insure for:

- ABF Freight System, Inc., Fort Smith, AR
- American Electric Power Company, Inc., Heath,
- Ameron International Corporation, Pasadena, CA
- Ascension Health, St. Louis, MO
- Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc., Kansas City,
- Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont
- Chevron Corporation, Houston
- Driver Pipeline Company, Inc., Irving
- E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, DE
- Emerson Electric Co., St. Louis, MO

- FedEx Freight, Inc., Harrison, AR
- General Motors Company, Detroit, MI
- Guardian Industries Corp., Auburn Hills, MI
- International Paper Company, Memphis, TN
- Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Houston
- James Construction Group, LLC, Baton Rouge,
- Johns Manville, Denver, CO
- Kiewit Corporation, Omaha, NE
- Leonard Family Corporation, San Antonio
- Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Portland, OR
- MasTec, Inc., Coral Gables, FL
- MeadWestvaco Corporation, Richmond, VA
- Mount Vernon Mills, Inc., Mauldin, SC
- PACCAR Inc., Bellevue, WA
- PPG Industries, Inc., Allison Park, PA
- Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Dallas
- Starbucks Corporation, Seattle, WA
- Textron, Inc., Providence, RI
- The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati,
- The Sherwin-Williams Company, Cleveland, OH
- Trinity Mother Frances Health System, Tyler Unique Staff Leasing I, Ltd., Corpus Christi
- VF Corporation, Greensboro, NC
- Weyerhaeuser Company, Federal Way, WA

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the insurance carriers making those payments. The TDI-DWC protects this confidential data from inadvertent disclosure and access through the use of multiple security levels, including authentication and encryption protocols. After receiving this data, OCSE will furnish information resulting from data matches to the state agencies responsible for collecting child support, including the Texas Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division. By electronically sharing this information with the OCSE, the TDI-DWC hopes to improve child support collection efforts regardless of the location of the delinquent parent or the entity responsible for workers' compensation payments.

New agency web address: www.tdi.texas.gov

Effective August 19, the website address for the Texas Department of Insurance has changed to www.tdi.texas.gov. The former address, www.tdi. state.tx.us, will continue in use during a transition period but TDI urges that regular visitors to the site update saved links and bookmarks to the new address.

San Marcos Company Receives Safety Award at **Texas Safety Summit**

TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) recognized CFAN Company of San Marcos with the Peer Review Safety Award for exemplary safety programs on May 12, 2011 at the 15th Annual Safety and Health Conference, the Texas Safety Summit, in Austin.

CFAN Company manufactures turbine fan blades and other components of General Electric jet engines at its facility in San Marcos. As a two-time recipient of this award, CFAN Company has created an outstanding safety culture that fosters high quality and active participation in the safety program by all levels of its 381 employees. The company also participates in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The TDI-DWC Peer Review Safety Award Program recognizes Texas employers that have comprehensive safety programs. Once approved, these programs can serve as models or standards of comparison for employers developing or reviewing their own workplace safety programs. Companies are nominated or can self-nominate, and may qualify for the award by having proven safety programs in place and workplace and injury incidence rates below the national averages for their industries. For more information on the Peer Review Safety Program visit the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/ sethome.html under "Peer Review Safety Award Program" or call the TDI-DWC at 512-804-4631.

Education Conferences Set for September, October in Austin, Dallas

TDI's Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) is hosting two Workers' Compensation Educational Conferences in 2011. The conferences, which will be held in Austin and Dallas, will feature information about Texas workers' compensation for system participants including: doctors and ancillary health care providers; medical office staff; employers; employee organizations; workers' compensation insurers; third party administrators; attorneys; and other related professionals.

The Austin conference will be held September 13-14, 2011 at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol. The Dallas conference will be held October 4-5, 2011, at the Renaissance Dallas-Richardson Hotel. Registration is \$295 per person through August 1, 2011, and \$370 per person after August 1, 2011.

The conferences features breakout sessions that will cover topics such as:

- legislative update;
- workers' compensation research findings;
- return-to-work guidelines;
- compliance training for doctors, including:
 - overview of the Texas workers' compensation system,
 - regulatory oversight and enforcement,
 - health care provider intake and registration practices,

- Official Disability Guidelines, and
- Designated doctor expectations and processes;
- information on newly adopted TDI-DWC rules, including:
 - pharmacy formulary,
 - benefit review conferences,
 - eBill and medical state reporting,
 - designated doctors, and
 - case management and vocational rehabilita-

Michigan State University will provide continuing education credits for certified workers' compensation professionals attending the conferences.

The hotels are offering conference room rates of \$149 at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol, and \$145 at the Renaissance Dallas-Richardson Hotel. To make reservations, contact the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol at 888-627-8349 by August 12, 2011, or the Renaissance Dallas-Richardson at 972-367-2000 by September 2, 2011, and reference the "Texas Workers' Compensation Educational Conference."

For exhibitor information and additional conference details, visit the TDI website at www.tdi. texas.gov/wc/events/edconference.html.



Insurance Carrier

| COMPANY | CITY | VIOLATION | ACTION TAKEN | ORDER NUMBER | DATE |
|--|---------------------|---|----------------|--------------|----------|
| Ace American Insurance Company | Philadelphia, PA | Failed to comply with order of Commissioner or TDI-DWC; Failed to timely pay a medical bill; Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services | Fined \$40,000 | DWC-11-0068 | 07/12/11 |
| Ace American Insurance | Philadelphia, PA | Please see Order Number DWC 11-0011 | Nunc Pro Tunc | DWC-11-0028 | 03/03/11 |
| Ace American Insurance Company | Philadelphia, PA | Failed to comply with TDI-DWC or Commissioner Order; Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to timely act on request for reconsideration of a medical bill; Failed to accurately report benefit data to TDI-DWC or accurately submit benefit data by electronic data interchange | Fined \$48,000 | DWC-11-0011 | 01/26/11 |
| America First Lloyds Insurance Company | Richardson | Failed to accurately report medical bill and payment data to TDI-DWC | Fined \$9,000 | DWC-11-0062 | 06/17/11 |
| American Casualty Company of Reading, Pennsylvania | Chicago, IL | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to comply with TDI-DWC or Commissioner Order; Failed to pay medical bills according to TDI-DWC Medical Fee Guidelines; Failed to accurately report benefit data to TDI-DWC or accurately submit benefit data by electronic data interchange; Failed to timely act on request for reconsideration of a medical bill; Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services | Fined \$25,000 | DWC-11-0005 | 01/10/11 |
| American Home Assurance Company | New York NY | Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services; Failed to timely respond to an injured employee's request for reimbursement of travel expenses | Fined \$11,000 | DWC-11-0032 | 03/03/11 |
| American Zurich Insurance Company | Schaumburg, IL | Failed to timely pay medical bill or to pay medical bill according to TDI-DWC Medical Fee Guidelines; Failed to accurately submit medical bill and payment data; Failed to comply with order or decision of Commissioner or TDI-DWC; Failed to timely reimburse injured employee for travel expenses | Fined \$9,000 | DWC-11-0057 | 05/06/11 |
| Arch Insurance Company | Jersey City, NJ | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to timely pay medical bill; Failed to timely act on request for reconsideration of a medical bill | Fined \$4,500 | DWC-11-0030 | 03/03/11 |
| Connecticut Indemnity Company | Addison | Failed to pay an order awarding benefits; Failed to comply with an order of the Commissioner or TDI-DWC | Fined \$2,500 | DWC-11-0072 | 07/22/11 |
| Dallas National Insurance Company, A Texas Stock Insurance Company | Dallas | Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services; Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$9,000 | DWC-11-0042 | 03/22/11 |
| East Texas Educational Insurance Association | Tyler | Failed to comply with an order or decision of the Commissioner | Fined \$7,000 | DWC-11-0049 | 04/25/11 |
| FedEx Freight Inc. | Memphis, TN | Failed to accurately report medical bill and payment data to TDI-DWC | Fined \$7,050 | DWC-11-0067 | 06/24/11 |
| Hanover Insurance Company | Worcester, MA | Failed to comply with order or decision of Commissioner or TDI-DWC; Failed to accurately submit medical bill and payment data | Fined \$15,000 | DWC-11-0053 | 05/06/11 |
| Hartford Casualty Insurance Corporation | Hartford, CT | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to timely pay attorney fees | Fined \$5,500 | DWC-11-0060 | 05/16/11 |
| Hartford Fire Insurance Company | Hartford, CT | Failed to reasonably and prudently process claims; Failed to provide written notification of claims experience; Failed to provide written notification of loss analysis; Failed to provide mandatory on-site visit to policyholders | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0035 | 03/03/11 |



| COMPANY | CITY | VIOLATION | ACTION TAKEN | ORDER NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---------------------|---|----------------|--------------|----------|
| Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest | Hartford, CT | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to provide written notification of claims experience | Fined \$4,500 | DWC-11-0034 | 03/03/11 |
| Horoda, Michael Johnathan, M.D. | Fort Worth | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$3,000 | DWC-11-0029 | 03/03/11 |
| Indemnity Insurance Company of North America | Philadelphia, PA | Failed to comply with order or decision of Commissioner or TDI-DWC; Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$15,500 | DWC-11-0054 | 05/06/11 |
| Indemnity Insurance Company of North America | Philadelphia, PA | Failed to comply with TDI-DWC or Commissioner Order; Failed to timely pay medical bill or to pay medical bill according to TDI-DWC Medical Fee Guidelines; Failed to sufficiently explain the reasons for the reduction or denial of payment for health care services to the injured employee; Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services | 1 | DWC-11-0016 | 01/28/11 |
| Liberty Insurance Corporation | Boston, MA | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$1,000 | DWC-11-0021 | 02/11/11 |
| Liberty Mutual Insurance Company | Boston, MA | Failed to comply with Commissioner's order to pay advance temporary income benefits | Fined \$3,000 | DWC-11-0023 | 02/21/11 |
| LM Insurance Corporation | Boston, MA | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to pay correct income benefit amount; Failed to timely pay medical bill | Fined \$18,000 | DWC-11-0020 | 02/11/11 |
| Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance | Boca Raton, FL | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to timely comply with an order to pay income benefits | Fined \$4,500 | DWC-11-0017 | 01/28/11 |
| Netherlands Insurance Company | Boston, MA | Failed to accurately submit pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$2,500 | DWC-11-0066 | 06/24/11 |
| New Hampshire Insurance Company | New York, NY | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0056 | 05/06/11 |
| Tarrant County College District | Fort Worth | Reported inaccurate billing data to TDI-DWC | Fined \$3,500 | DWC-11-0050 | 04/25/11 |
| TASB Risk Management Fund | Austin | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0036 | 03/03/11 |
| Texas Hospital Insurance Exchange | Austin | Failed to timely submit medical bill and payment data to TDI-DWC | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0058 | 05/06/11 |
| Transportation Insurance Company | Chicago, IL | Retrospectively reviewed medical necessity of preauthorized medical service or treatment; Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services | Fined \$10,000 | DWC-11-0033 | 03/03/11 |
| XL Insurance America Inc. | Exton, PA | Failed to accurately submit medical bill and payment data | Fined \$7,000 | DWC-11-0061 | 05/27/11 |
| XL Specialty Insurance Company | Exton, PA | Failed to timely pay income benefits to injured employee; Failed to accurately report benefit data to TDI-DWC or accurately submit benefit data by electronic data interchange; Failed to timely pay attorney fees | Fined \$25,000 | DWC-11-0003 | 01/10/11 |
| Zurich American Insurance Company | Schaumburg, IL | Failed to timely pay medical bill or to pay medical bill according to TDI-DWC Medical Fee Guidelines; Failed to sufficiently explain reasons for the reduction or denial of payment for health care services; Failed to pay for preauthorized medical services | Fined \$10,000 | DWC-11-0052 | 05/06/11 |



Health Care Providers

| COMPANY | CITY | VIOLATION | ACTION TAKEN | ORDER NUMBER | DATE |
|--|--------------------|---|--|--------------|----------|
| Anderson, C. Lynn M.D. | Brownsville | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$6,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0022 | 02/11/11 |
| Begia, Bruce C., M.D. | San Antonio | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$1,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0040 | 03/11/11 |
| Bumagin, Michael S. M.D. | Fort Worth | Failed to assign Impairment Ratings in accordance with the American Medical Association Guides to Permanent Impairment | Removed from Designated Doctor List; Maximum Medical Improvement and Impairment Rating certifications revoked | DWC-11-0027 | 03/03/11 |
| Chen, Dean M.D. | Austin | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$2,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0004 | 01/10/11 |
| Christus Santa Rosa Hospital | San Antonio | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$6,000 | DWC-11-0001 | 01/10/11 |
| CorVel Healthcare Corporation | Addison | Failed to provide TDI-DWC with list of insurance carriers with whom the network contracted and/or timely report changes to list to TDI-DWC | Fined \$7,000 | DWC-11-0007 | 01/10/11 |
| Crockett, James D.O. | Marlin | Provided diagnoses and treatments found to be improper, unfair and/or unreasonable and not supported by documentation and/or physical examination of injured employee | Removed from participation in workers' compensation system as health care provider for 10 years | DWC-11-0043 | 03/24/11 |
| Davis, Carl Cuthbert Jr., M.D. | Houston | Failed to timely file letter of clarification; Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$1,250; Suspended from Designated Doctor's List of 90 days; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0031 | 03/03/11 |
| Dodge, William David M.D. | Dallas | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$4,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors andmedical office staff | DWC-11-0046 | 04/12/11 |
| Downey, Sara D.C. | Grand Prairie | Failed to provide an explanation for the date of Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI); Failed to assign an impairment rating in accordance with applicable guidelines | Must take designated doctor test administered by AADEP and submit score to TDI-DWC; Designated Doctor examinations will be monitored; Must submit Designated Doctor examinations for review | | 04/25/11 |
| EBI, LLC | Parisippany, NJ | Improperly billed injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$2,500 | DWC-11-0071 | 07/22/11 |
| Gibbons, Raymond Robert M.D. | Dallas | Failed to assign Impairment Ratings in accordance with American Medical Association Guides | Must limit injuries, illnesses and body areas evaluated; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0055 | 05/06/11 |
| Houston Northwest Emergency Specialists, PLLC | Houston | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$4,000 | DWC-11-0039 | 03/07/11 |



| COMPANY | CITY | VIOLATION | ACTION TAKEN | ORDER NUMBER | DATE |
|--|------------------|---|--|--------------|----------|
| Jolivet, David Anthony M.D. | Houston | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$4,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0012 | 01/26/11 |
| Knoll, Victoria D., M.D. | Plano | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$1,000 | DWC-11-0002 | 01/10/11 |
| Lee, Walter M.D. | Houston | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$8,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0015 | 01/28/11 |
| Memorial Hermann Hospital System dba Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital | Katy | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$6,000 | DWC-11-0024 | 02/21/11 |
| Methodist Hospital | San Antonio | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$6,000 | DWC-11-0025 | 02/21/11 |
| Metropolitan Methodist Hospital | Cincinnati, OH | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$10,000 | DWC-11-0014 | 01/26/11 |
| Moczygemba, Roger M., M.D. | San Antonio | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$3,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0041 | 03/22/11 |
| Osborne, William (Phillip) M.D. | . Houston | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$4,500; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0044 | 03/24/11 |
| Puig, Louis Frank III, M.D. | Pasadena | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$2,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical office staff | DWC-11-0013 | 01/26/11 |
| Quest Diagnostics, Inc. | Collegeville, PA | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0010 | 01/26/11 |
| Rose, James Keith M.D. | Corpus Christi | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$1,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0045 | 04/12/11 |
| Rosenstein, Jacob M.D. | Arlington | Relating to quality of health care provided to injured employees in workers' compensation system | Consent Order | DWC-11-0018 | 02/03/11 |
| Southwest General Emergency Physicians, PLLC | Hollywood, FL | Improperly billed an injured employee for workers' compensation medical services provided | Fined \$1,000 | DWC-11-0048 | 04/25/11 |
| Spine & Orthopaedic Institute | Boston, MA | Failed to properly respond to insurance carriers request for refund | Fined \$1,500 | DWC-11-0059 | 05/06/11 |
| Valdez, Anthony Francis M.D. | El Paso | Provided health care and received remuneration for services to injured employees after being denied admission to Approve Doctors List | Ordered to cease and desist from participating in workers' compensation system | DWC-11-0070 | 07/22/11 |
| Wan, Christine Wyman M.D. | Odessa | Failed to timely file and/or accurately complete TDI-DWC forms, reports or records | Fined \$1,000; Must attend compliance training for doctors and medical staff | DWC-11-0037 | 03/03/11 |
| Wolski, Edward, M.D. dba Wol+Med | Denton | Filed unwarranted complaints against system participants | Fined \$5,000 | DWC-11-0038 | 03/07/11 |

Division of Workers' Compensation Contact Information

www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/dwccontacts.html

| Comp Connection for Health Care Providers EDI/TXCOMP Help Desk | |
|--|---|
| Fraud Hotline | 1-888-327-8818 or 512-463-6700 |
| Government Relations | |
| Injured Employee Hotline (local field offices) | 1-800-252-7031 or local office/(Austin) 512-933-1899 |
| Open Records Requests Public Information/Publications | |
| Safety Violations Hotline | 1-800-452-9595 |
| Speakers' Bureau Stay at Work/Return to Work TDI-DWC Main Office | 512-804-5000 |
| Workplace Safety(Accident Prevention Services; OSHCON; Safety Resource Center; Federal Data Collection) | 1-800-687-7080 |
| Other Helpful Numbers | |
| Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services | 1-800-628-5115 |
| Office of Injured Employee Counsel | 1-866-EZE-0IEC (1-866-393-6432) |
| Texas Workforce Commission | 1-800-832-2829 |

Links to other TDI publications:



